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UNITED NATIONS, 11 SEPTEMBER 1962 FROM THE MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR OF CUBA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS, COMMITTEE ON THE TRUTH COMMISSION

In accordance with the express instructions of the Revolutionary Government of Cuba, I have the honor to bring to your attention the following facts and comments:

In recent weeks, there have been various attacks in Cuban territory which have been typified as international piracy.

On 12 May, a pirate boat attacked a Cuban Government patrol boat, killing three sailors and wounding eight. On firing to a CP cable, dated 25 August 1962, José Manuel Salvat, the leader of the Counter-revolutionary student movement and the co-ordinator of the naval attack, incriminated Leslie Vittoraggio, the captain of the pirate boat, and Isidro Pérez, who sent the ship, at a meeting of journalists on Miami. This meeting had originally been called by the police authorities and was held when the Revolutionary Student Directorate received assurances "that its members would not be molested".

During the night of 24 August, Dr. Fidel Castro, the Prime Minister of the Revolutionary Government, announced: "At 11.30 p.m. yesterday, the sea front of the town of Havana was attacked by armed ships, which fired numerous bursts of 20-calibre gun-fire. This treacherous surprise attack shows the cowardice, the criminal and piratical spirit of its authors, the Government of the United States and the mercenary agents recruited by it, who operate with impunity from the coast of Florida, trampling under foot the most elementary principles of international law. We hold the United States Government responsible for this new and cowardly attack on our country."

At 2.50 a.m. on 11 September 1962, at Playa Francés, sixteen miles from Cárdenas, a pirate boat attacked the 351-foot plantation boat "San Salvador", used

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to score mistakes, and the freighter "Newland", flying the British flag, which was false by and was acting to hide... as a cover for the United Kingdom.

The American Press agencies of ABC and NBC reported from Miami, United States, that "some members of the anti-Castro organization known as Alpha 64 said that five members of the organization had carried out an attack on two freighters of the northern coast of Cuba". The writer said the commander of the organization was in Puerto Rico and the operation was planned to be carried out on 14 August, in the port of Bahia Honda. The American ABC news Miami, says that "the British ship 'Newland', which was loading sugar for the communist controlled at Bay Pinar del Rio, was severely machine-gunned by the Alpha 64".

At 1 p.m. on 16 October 1962 a pirate crew fired several shots at a British machine-gunner ship and a boat carrying a number of Cuban citizens, near the Florida, close to the coast of Florida. The citizens were wounded in the attack and surrendered to the crew who, who then took fire to the British crew, the crew of the ship and then illegally into United States territory. This was a flagrant kidnapping and a violation of Cuban territorial waters, in which the United States was obviously implicated, since it gave refuge and protection to the attack crew; for this was committed in the kidnapping of the wounded citizens, who were subjected by force to great pressure in the United States authorities in Florida, who tried to make it appear that they were being asked for asylum, whereas those who were responsible for the attack were encouraged and given every protection.

At least two amount to hundreds of violations of Cuban air space and Cuban waters by aircraft attacking freighters sailing for our ports through our territorial waters which have been denounced by the Cuban 1 July of this year through the Ministry of the Revolutionary Armed Forces.

On 27 August, The New York Times reported that two United States airmen, William Johnson and Frank Swanner, had carried out exploratory flights over Havana before the attack on Friday, 14 August, in order to locate the target. This fits in with the fact that United States ships are spying on the Cuban coast - the ship "Invader", for instance, which is permanently stationed within sight of Havana for the purpose of letting the small motor boats know when they can approach with impunity, and boats are stationed just inside our territorial waters in order to protect the attackers when they withdraw.

The article of information came in from the Associated Press and was as follows:
to bear by the Government of the United States of America, and to prohibit all
shipping to Asia. It is further demanded that the United States Government
at the earliest date take steps to prevent, by every available means, to stop, seize
and protect this illegal "Blackmail" traffic, and to fill up with men in the
place. The U. S. Government is also requested to issue a proclamation in the name
of official neutrality against the "Blackmail" traffic. For example, the
newspaper Journal of Commerce, a leading American publication, claims
commercial shipping with Asia, resulting in, about, 15 October 1937, that "It is
permitted, at their own risk, that American shipping firms finance and
participate in the 'Blackmail' traffic to Japan".

Upon this return to the United States, the following statement of facts was
presented on 1937 and "It is now proposed to ban the 'Blackmail' traffic
and to prohibit the 'Blackmail' operation". From the U. S. Governmental side it
called itself "An Act" and "enacted that it "Be it enacted by the Congress of the United
States carrying into effect the 'Blackmail'"; the United States of America, and that the "United"
a vessel flying the British flag, which had been sent to the United
States, was subjected to "blackmail" demands. The United States, however,
denied any "Blackmail" demands made by the United States, and the United States did not
try to force any "Blackmail" demands made by the United States. It is a fact that
would be made in records of non-Communist countries as well. In fact, it is a
fact that the United States did not demand any "Blackmail" of the United States have not been
published the statements of the perspectives of the sort of international
person but have also "Blackmail" these will be known. However, the "International"
officials have reported that their acts were to be not from a loss in the United
States perspective from which they set out and to which they returned with complete
impunity. Suffice it to recall that the leaders of the counter-revolutionary
organization which calls itself Army of Japan, according to the
Associated Press, that they seize "fifteen points from 15 to 16 guns, two searchlights
at the base of the projectiles, a certain gun used during the Second World War
by automatic anti-aircraft guns, and 1500 of the "Blackmail" will be held, but
a luminous trail".

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The same agency reported the same day that in "Washington, a military-civilian organization said 'It is duty to strike again'. A cable from the Associated Press, sent from Havana on 9 Sept. 1961, reported that a new organization, called the so-called Student Revolutionary Federation, asserted that the "counter-revolutionary organization 'will carry on their struggle until the Cuban people will return'".

On 10 Sept. 1961, similar attacks on Cuban freighters were launched, ending with another invasion and with the bombing and destruction of the United States naval station at Guantanamo Bay, the capital of the Cuban naval force, and the sinking of the naval aircraft carrier USS *Essex*, carrying 3,000 sailors, and the *USS *Oriskany**, the Cuban *USS *Oriskany** being sunk. The *Oriskany* was hit by Cuban anti-aircraft fire and suffered no damage to the aircraft carrier and the *Oriskany* was in violating international law by attacking in the high seas in the international judicial community. The Government of the United States has been accused of not using international law to its advantage and only the "so-called" apparently referring to the policy of the CIA, and not the most powerful organization in the United States, as shown in the blatant violation of the universally recognized principle of *nonintervention* and the peaceful conduct of war.

On 15 August 1961, a cable from Miami reported that an instruction from the State Department and Coast Guard to the *Juniper*, at Marathon Key, the two vessels used in the sinking of the *Oriskany* in the Florida straits. When they were informed that the vessels had been impounded by the Government, stated as follows in the *counter-revolutionaries* cable: "We have no comment, but we hope they will be returned to us with all the *ammunition* in working order". The attackers who carried out the *counter-revolutionary* action of 15 September 1961 said that it was accomplished without radar or radio "and with *rockets* which did not work".

All these documents were sold in the United States.

The New York *Times* of 15 September 1961, pointed out that "the United States wants to stop these dangerous revolutionaries. It can expect certainly to do by telling the responsible leaders of the Cuban *U.S.* that they must stop them. This should be done openly".

According to a cable from the Associated Press dated 25 August 1962, the United States State Department stated that "it was proven that the Cuban Student Revolutionary Directorate led the raid by sea against Havana last night from Miami. In relatively gentle terms, the Department warned the anti-Castro Cuban exiles that they could be prosecuted for violation of neutrality laws if they did it again. The law prohibits the launching of a military expedition against countries which are not at war with the United States. The Department of Justice is investigating whether there is any ground for taking action against the organizers of, and participants in, the attack."

Despite all the evidence, the United States authorities did not fail to use on these accusations the same cynical terms as preceded the military aggression at Playa Girón on 17 April 1961. In fact, on the morning of 17 August United States aircraft attacked the United States embassy and using "friendly" forces also bombed several Cuban towns as a preliminary to the invasion, by means of a plan, organized and financed by the United States Government, of the publicly admitted secret order afterwords by President John F. Kennedy himself. On 17 August Stevenson, the United States representative to the United Nations, stated that these had been aircraft of the Cuban Air Force which had retaliated against their own Government. Now, in connection with the pirate attack on the *Granma*, the same process seems to be repeated. Thus a CP cable of 17 August 1962 reported in connexion with the attack on areas near Havana that "United States officials hinted privately that elements of the Cuban Navy might have been responsible and not the anti-Castro revolutionary group which claimed credit for the deed".

It was added that "investigations have shown that no ship belonging to the Cuban exiles capable of such a mission has left United States waters recently". In addition to that lie the agents in question boldly added that "the possibility that was not rejected at the start by United States officials is that the Cuban army, which is alleged to be holding manoeuvres in the area of Havana, pointed its guns at the hotel in which communist technicians were lodging and at other buildings. According to these speculations the Cuban marines could have fired by mistake, could have been deceived or could have fired on Castro's orders so that he could accuse the United States of aggression".

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At 1000, on the same date as the Associated Press Agency reported, the statement of the U.S. Ambassador to Mexico that "there can be no guarantee from Cuban exiles that they would not try to make an armed attack on this country, " "I presume that the United States would not allow an any attack from Cuban American exiles".

On very day, Mr. R. E. Lee, spokesman of the State Department in Washington, said that "there is still a move about to go on, in Cuba to call themselves a, or to be an independent, in which they have not decided yet the attack from a base somewhere in the Caribbean". He added that "apparently the Department of Justice was considering a raid". With the attack on the boat in Micromar on 1 August 1962, the State Department stated that "that type of attack did not really win the sympathy, especially in Cuba and that therefore it recognized, the last feelings by which the student group was oriented and their inability to the regime in their country. It built up, especially, of the use of United States territory as a base for the attack". He is later the State Dept. sent and reported that it had "evidence that the anti-Castro Cuban Revolutionaries, Directorate was responsible for the last night's attack on the boat boat of Havana". The Department of Justice confirmed that either "imperialist agents from the United States territory have been violated as a result of this a raid". The three U.S. coast guard ships were renamed to "United States authorities".

The position of the United States Government to their conclusive, airline, has all along been negative and justified.

However, an act of justice has occurred for justified that the policy of the United States was to disapprove of the use of United States territory as a base for armed action against Castro. Writing out of the aggression of 11 September 1962, a cable of the U.S.I.B. Agency from Washington said 11 September, 1962 that the Department of State and it's chief the policy of opposing the use of United States territory by groups of Cuban exiles for launching attacks against Cuba.

"The New York Times" of 11 October 1962 exhorted the United States Government to prohibit the preparation of expeditions against countries with whom the United States was at peace. It added that violent reaction might be expected abroad if it appeared that exiles based in the United States were in fact trying

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to sink ships carrying out peaceful trade with Cuba, and that the United States Government should prevent such unlawful and dangerous action by the Cuban exiles - with whose cause, however, the newspaper declared itself in complete sympathy. The "Daily News" stated that although the bombing of Howard was organized from the United States, no proceedings were planned against the adventurers who had violated the United States Neutrality Act.

Nothing could be more flagrant than the complicity of the United States Government in these international crimes committed by persons who assemble in American territory, perpetrate aggression with American ships and weapons, and return to America a territory to commence publicly their acts of vandalism. By way of camouflage the pirates have been "warned" that their "may be trifid" for breaches of American law "if repeated". This is a polite announcement of impunity for the criminal, who is not punished but "warned", and then only if the offence is "repeated". This means that the law forbidding the crime requires as one of its ingredients that it shall be repeated - not to mention the fact that since these official announcements these crimes have been repeated and no action has been taken. In the "Standard", speaking of these attacks upon the United States Government itself encourages and aids, the White House press secretary Lincoln White stated on 12 October 1961 that the United States had informed Great Britain that it could not guarantee the safety of British shipping in the Caribbean against armed attacks by anti-Castro Cuban exiles. He said that such attacks are not approved by the United States Government and that the United States could not take any responsibility for acts committed by Cuban exiles sailing from ports not under its national jurisdiction. He added, that although the American coastguard and immigration services have plans for preventing incidents against Cuba, the United States has two thousand Kilometres of coast to patrol; that there are in the Florida area many thousands of pleasure boats; and that there is no absolute safeguard against the occurrence of any incident. In commenting on the crimes of piracy recorded in this document, the United States Government not only abets, encourages and screens them, but in so doing tolerates a crime punishable by its own law; violates Cuban territorial waters and air space; offends against the law of the high seas and subverts the principle of the freedom of the seas; protects those who commit crimes in its territorial waters;